

NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSES AND CORRIDOR DESIGN PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE GASTON EAST-WEST CONNECTOR “GARDEN PARKWAY” PROJECT

STIP Project No. U-3321

Gaston & Mecklenburg Counties

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) will hold four Pre-Hearing Open Houses and two Corridor Design Public Hearings for the proposed Gaston East-West Connector project.

Pre-Hearing Open Houses

Pre-Hearing Open House #1	Pre-Hearing Open House #2	Pre-Hearing Open House #3	Pre-Hearing Open House #4
June 22, 2009	June 23, 2009	June 24, 2009	June 25, 2009
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM	2:30 PM to 6:30 PM	2:30 PM to 7:30 PM	2:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Gaston Adult Recreation Center	Forestview High School	South Point High School	Olympic High School
519 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia	5545 Union Rd, Gastonia	906 South Point Rd, Belmont	4301 Sandy Porter Rd, Charlotte

Public Hearings

Public Hearing #1	Public Hearing #2
June 23, 2009	June 25, 2009
7:00 PM	7:00 PM
Forestview High School	Olympic High School
5545 Union Rd, Gastonia	4301 Sandy Porter Rd, Charlotte

NCTA representatives will be available at the Pre-Hearing Open Houses to answer questions and receive comments relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will also be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time on the above mentioned days or hours. The same public hearing maps and information will be presented at all open houses and hearings.

The formal Public Hearings for the proposed projects will begin at 7:00 p.m. on June 23 and June 25 at the locations noted above. The presentation will consist of an explanation of the proposed corridor locations, design features, the state – federal relationship, and right of way and relocation requirements and procedures. The Hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and/or comments. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared. Anyone wishing to speak at the formal hearing may register to do so at the Pre-Hearing Open House, immediately prior to the formal Hearing or by calling Ms. Pat Puryear at (919) 571-3000 or by sending an email to gaston@ncturnpike.org. Speakers will be called in the order they registered. A three-minute time limit will be imposed for speaking in order to allow a fair opportunity for all those wishing to do so. Additional spoken comments may be received after those who registered have finished their comments.

NCTA, in coordination with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), proposes to construct a project known as the Gaston East-West Connector, which would be a controlled-access toll road from I-85 west of Gastonia in Gaston County to I-485 in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, a distance of about 22 miles. Several alternative corridors for a new location facility are evaluated in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). NCTA, FHWA, and NCDOT have identified Detailed Study Alternative (DSA) 9 as the Recommended Alternative based on a balance of cost and design considerations, impacts to the human and natural environments, and input received to date from agencies and the public.

Maps displaying the location and design of the project and copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review at the following locations: NCTA office; NCDOT Division 10 office; NCDOT Division

12 office; the City of Gastonia and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Departments; and the Belmont Branch, Bessemer City Branch, Gaston, Lowell Branch, Steele Creek Branch, and Union Road libraries. The maps, Draft EIS, and supporting documents are also available on the project web site at: www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston. A Citizens Summary, a brief summary highlighting the major topics discussed in detail in the Draft EIS, is available on the project web site and at the review locations.

Comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to Ms. Jennifer Harris, NCTA, at 1578 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1578, phone (919) 571-3000, or email, gaston@ncturnpike.org. Citizens may also call the Project Hotline (800-475-6402). Comments should be submitted by July 17, 2009 in order to receive full consideration. Anyone desiring additional information may also contact Ms. Harris.

NCTA will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Harris by Monday, June 15, 2009 so that arrangements can be made.